

# WHITE WATER TO BLUE WATER NEWSLETTER

## October 2003

### Dear White Water to Blue Water Participant:

On behalf of the Steering Committee for the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (hereinafter White Water to Blue Water, or WW2BW), we are pleased to issue the fourth “White Water to Blue Water Newsletter,” a monthly update on the status and activities of the WW2BW Partnership Initiative. This month, we continue our series of articles highlighting the activities of various Steering Committee Sub-Committees with a snapshot of the work being undertaken by the **Sub-Committee on Integrated Marine Ecosystems Management**. The sub-committee chairs and the WW2BW steering committee welcome your comments and suggestions.

This newsletter is being sent to a wide spectrum of interested participants: WW2BW National Focal Points, partners, members of the Steering Committee, civil society organizations and other stakeholders of the Wider Caribbean Region, and individuals interested in the goals, objectives and activities of the initiative. We encourage you to distribute the monthly newsletters widely to interested parties.

### International Visitor Team Update and WW2BW Outreach Activities

IVTs have now been conducted in Belize, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Grenada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nicaragua, Guyana, Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles (Curacao and Bonaire), Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Suriname and Mexico. WW2BW has been presented at numerous international conferences and meetings, as well. In November, WW2BW updates will be presented at the annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute meeting, the ICRI CFC meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean and Latin American Water Fair in Panama, and the annual meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Association in Barbados. The White Water to Blue Water Steering Committee is committed to completing IVT consultations visits throughout the Wider Caribbean before the March Partnership Conference.

### Partnerships Update

The Partnership Sub-Committee, in conjunction with thematic sub-committees (i.e., the Sub-Committees on Integrated Watershed Management, Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation), has developed an initial list of potential partnerships for consideration by the Steering Committee and National Focal Points. This list provides examples of potential partnerships Country Teams can use as a departure point for the development of their own list of priority projects they would like to see implemented and for which they would be willing to form partnerships with like-minded stakeholders in the region. In each month's Newsletter, we'll highlight a WW2BW partnership. The current list of partnerships is available for review and comment at:

<http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw>

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## Partnership of the Month:

### *Anchors Away!*

The **Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation** sub-committee is working on several partnership projects. One of the projects which is gaining momentum--and which also benefits the **Sustainable Tourism** and **Marine Ecosystems** sub-committees--is called *Anchors Away!* The objective of this project is to install and maintain mooring buoys to protect sensitive coral reef resources from anchor damage and to demarcate identified marine protected areas; it will also include an education component aimed at coral reef diving and other activities engaged in anchoring. *Anchors Away!* will begin with pilot projects in at least two select Caribbean countries. Areas eligible for a mooring buoy project will be chosen based on a clearly identified set of factors.

*Anchors Away!* will foster sustainable tourism and protect the fragile coral reef ecosystems upon which the tourism industry is based. Tourism is a critically important economic activity in the Wider Caribbean Region, contributing 43% of combined gross domestic product and one-third of export revenues. Reef-based tourism attracts millions of divers and snorkelers each year and it is estimated for 2005 that scuba diving and snorkeling tourism could generate about US\$1.2 billion in income. This significant revenue stream could be jeopardized by degraded coral reefs. Although the threats to reefs are many, one tourism-based threat can be managed easily: damage caused by the anchors. Although the damage caused by each anchoring event—when viewed in isolation—may be considered minor, the effect of boat anchors dropped many times imposes a cumulative toll on coral reefs. Mooring buoys lessen the harmful effects of anchors on delicate underwater ecosystems and also can be used to demarcate marine protected areas. The benefits to the environment have been recognized as far outweighing the effort involved in the planning, installation, and maintenance of mooring buoys. Over the years, mooring buoy programs have gathered momentum and are now widely accepted as an effective solution to one aspect of habitat degradation. Bonaire, the Cayman Islands, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, United States have programs that provide excellent models of the success of mooring buoy programs.

The partners that have joined forces to turn the *Anchors Away!* partnership idea into reality are two U.S. agencies, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, and two non-governmental organizations with expertise critical to the success of this project, The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) and Project AWARE Foundation. Potential partners include other government agencies, local dive operators, local and other businesses with interest in the Region, marinas or ports, regional tourism organizations, nongovernmental organizations with an interest in protecting coral reef resources, and funding institutions and other donors. For further information contact: [Cotter.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Cotter.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov), [Lindy.S.Johnson@noaa.gov](mailto:Lindy.S.Johnson@noaa.gov), [Joe.Schittone@noaa.gov](mailto:Joe.Schittone@noaa.gov), [bhuse@coral.org](mailto:bhuse@coral.org), [thoffman@coral.org](mailto:thoffman@coral.org) or [kristinv@projectaware.org](mailto:kristinv@projectaware.org).

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## CONFERENCE UPDATE

### SAVE THESE DATES!!!

The White Water to Blue Water regional stakeholders' partnership conference will be held **March 21-26, 2004**, at the **Hyatt Regency Miami** hotel. Mark your calendars, as the registration web page will be available in coming weeks. This conference, which will focus on networking and the creation of public-private partnerships, is designed to gather national "Country Team" delegations of 5-6 persons from diverse ministries such as Fisheries, Education, Finance, Health, Agriculture, Planning and Tourism to address national and regional needs in watershed and marine ecosystem management. Country Team delegations should include, where appropriate, representatives from civil society and the private sector, and are designed to bring together technical experts with policymakers at the national level in order to make science-based, comprehensive management decisions and partnership commitments. The Steering Committee has begun communicating with National Focal Points from each of the countries of the region. National Focal Points are being identified through the "IVT" consultation process; for those countries that have yet to be visited by Steering Committee members, in the interim we are using the list of UNEP-CEP National Focal Points provided by the CEP Secretariat in Kingston, Jamaica. As the conference draws near, we will coordinate logistical arrangements with the National Focal Points to ensure that Country Team delegations are prepared for the conference discussions.

**Formal invitations to the governments of the region** to attend the Miami conference and to create Country Team delegations will go out in the month of November. These invitations will likely coincide with the announcement of the **conference** and **partnership clearinghouse websites** (see below).

Conference registration will most likely include up to 450 participants, accommodating Country Team delegations from the countries of the region as well as participation from **non-governmental organizations, universities, the private sector** and the **media**. The Steering Committee is also working on activities involving **students from the region**, emphasizing the educational and public awareness aspects of the WW2BW initiative.

### Caribbean Latin America Action's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami Conference

We are pleased to announce that WW2BW will be a part of the CLAA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin, to be held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel December 8-10, 2003. CLAA has kindly provided opportunities for WW2BW to be represented in several sessions on Environment and Sustainable Tourism and showcased in the exhibit hall. The conference will attract approximately 600 corporate, association and government officials concerned with the Wider Caribbean Region – what a key opportunity to find partners for WW2BW partnerships! For further information about the CLAA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami conference, please visit [www.claa.org](http://www.claa.org).

Website News

The **NOAA document WW2BW** website continues to provide general information about the White Water to Blue Water initiative as well as access to WW2BW background documents (such as the current list of Steering Committee members, and PowerPoint presentations on the initiative in English, Spanish and French). All WW2BW newsletters can be found there as well. You can access the website at: <http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw>, and we encourage you to visit the site often.

The **Miami partnership conference website** is in its final review and will be launched in the coming weeks. Look for an announcement of the website address shortly. This website will include registration and hotel information, and general information for use by all stakeholders, the public and the media. In the meantime, conference updates, including the website's Internet address, will be provided via this monthly newsletter.

The third website, which will function as a **clearinghouse/matchmaker for Wider Caribbean Region partnerships**, is also under final review, and will be announced shortly. The website is being designed and will be maintained by the UNEP-CEP Secretariat in Kingston, Jamaica. The list of partnerships under development by the Steering Committee will be posted on this website for public review and comment.

All three websites will be linked by World Wide Web hyperlinks.

Available Documents

All basic documents on the WW2BW initiative are now available on the **NOAA website** discussed above. We are also happy to provide these documents by email; please contact us if you would like copies of the following:

- A 2-page glossy (available in English, Spanish, or French)
- WW2BW Basic PowerPoint presentation (in English, Spanish and French)
- Steering Committee Membership List
- Conference Subcommittee Leadership List
- The latest Conference draft Agenda
- Subcommittee Descriptions
- The latest listing of partnership projects under development

In the meantime, the Steering Committee is committed to the broadest possible

participation in the White Water to Blue Water process, and your questions, comments and expressions of interest in participation are encouraged and desired. To communicate with the Steering Committee, you are also most welcome to contact the following Steering Committee members:

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## Sub-Committee of the Month:

### Marine Ecosystem-based Management

The Co-Chairs of the Marine Ecosystem-based Management Sub-Committee are **Dr. Ken Sherman of NOAA-Fisheries** (email: [Kenneth.Sherman@noaa.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Sherman@noaa.gov)), **Dr. Al Duda of the Global Environment Facility** (email: [aduda@thegef.org](mailto:aduda@thegef.org)) and **Dr. Robin Mahon of the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados** (email: [rmahon@caribsurf.com](mailto:rmahon@caribsurf.com)). Program Liaison is **Nancy Daves of NOAA Fisheries** (email: [Nancy.Daves@noaa.gov](mailto:Nancy.Daves@noaa.gov)).

Presentations and breakout groups at the Miami meeting included in this theme will be organized within the structure of the **Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)** approach to ensuring the long-term productivity and sustainability of the living resources and the environment. This concept is predicated on the fact that marine pollution and living marine resources respect no political and few geographical boundaries. Management requires a large scale, concerted and holistic approach for assessment and control actions that can accommodate scaling-up from small local embayments and estuarine problem areas to national and cross-border international ecosystem-wide sustainability problems areas. To find out more about this approach to conservation, see <http://www.edc.uri.edu/lme/default.htm>.

### Keynote Talks

The Marine Ecosystem-based Management Sub-Committee is planning for two keynote talks at the Miami conference:

#### The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Ecosystem-based Management

This talk will explore the importance of taking an LME approach in the Caribbean and how scaling down to ecosystems at smaller scales would fit within this approach; and

#### Living Marine Resource Governance in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem

This presentation provides an overview of how living marine resource governance operates in the Caribbean at national and transboundary scales (with emphasis on the latter) and linkages with international efforts and instruments. This needs to touch on both fisheries and biodiversity issues, and will cover:

- Key institutional players and their roles;
- Any trends in other regions that may be useful and adaptable or that may be inappropriate for the Caribbean;
- Ideas for approaching region-wide governance and international linkages; implications of a UN resolution on the Caribbean Sea as a special area.

Breakout groups will be organized around the following LME modules: Productivity; Fish and Fisheries (includes conservation of biodiversity); Ecosystem Health and Pollution; Socioeconomic Factors; and Governance (includes adaptive management and stakeholder participation).

## Partnerships

The Marine Ecosystem-based Management Sub-Committee, which includes representatives of government, academic and non-governmental organizations, has identified a number of partnerships in the Wider Caribbean, many of which are already in development. Below are some of these partnerships:

**Sustainable Management of the Shared Marine Resources the Caribbean LME and Adjacent Regions** – Sustainable use and protection of the transboundary living resources of the Caribbean LME and their key habitat are the subjects of this project, which is still under early phases of development. Planned with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and IOCARIBE (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions), the project will cover up to 28 nations (and associated island states) of the Wider Caribbean Region that share the large marine ecosystem. The objective of the project is to help achieve sustainable management of the shared living resources of the LME and adjacent areas through integrated approaches that will meet targets of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) related to sustainable fisheries and ecosystem-based approaches to management. Gaps in understanding transboundary resources will be filled that will lead to introduction of an ecosystem-based approach to assessment and management of the living resources of the LME. With the many institutions that exist in the Caribbean region, the project may assist the countries to sort out management responsibilities and will build capacity to undertake needed policy, legal, and institutional reforms to meet WSSD targets.

**Development of a regional management body for fish species** – The need for regional fisheries management in the Wider Caribbean has long been recognized, but never achieved. A current proposal by CARICOM-Fisheries for such an accord, as well as other initiatives in the region by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and IOCARIBE are being explored.

**Cooperation between cruise lines and scientists for use of ships as platforms of opportunity for biological research** – This concept has been successfully used for gathering oceanographic data. This project would extend its reach to biological data.

**Establishment of a Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean** – Consistent with the recommendations of the WSSD and the Vth IUCN World Park Congress (2003), this partnership would seek to establish a system of effectively managed, representative network of marine and coastal protected areas, consistent with international law and based on scientific information.

